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apertures tailored to specific needs. In addition to sector-shaped LCDs, a mask can be formed from an X-Y array of LCDs that can be switched to create any shape desired that can be moved continuously so that light can be caused to continuously move through a different portion of an objective aperture. See Kley patent 4,561,731.--

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 27 as follows:

27. (Amended) The method of claim 22 wherein the imaging system is a light microscope having an illumination path including the objective aperture and a viewing path having at least one additional objective aperture wherein the objective aperture through which light passes through only a portion is in the illumination path.

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(Please amend claim 28 as follows:)

28. (Amended) The method of claim 22 wherein the imaging system is a light microscope having an illumination path including the objective aperture and a viewing path having at least one additional objective aperture wherein the objective aperture through which light passes through only a portion is in the viewing path.

Please amend claim 32 as follows:

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32. (Amended) The method of claim 22 wherein the microscope is a phase contrast microscope.

In the Drawings:

Upon allowance of claims, Applicant will submit corrected drawings adding the numeral designation 179a in Fig. 24 and "Prior Art" to Fig. 6.